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CAN MAN WIN HIS FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER?

This headline question will confront the Food and Agriculture Organization when it convenes in Copenhagen September 2.

Forty-two member countries of the international FAO, meeting in its second session, will study:

- (1) Proposals for long-term international food program to prevent both shortages and surpluses of food and other farm products;
- (2) A comprehensive world food survey based on information from 70 countries;
- (3) A draft agreement covering relations between FAO and the United Nations;
- (4) The first annual report of the Director-General;
- (5) A development plan for forestry and forest products.

Delegations from the 42 nations, plus observers from other countries and international agencies, are expected to attend the conference, which is scheduled for 2 weeks. Permanent officers will be chosen, as well as committee members.

FAO works closely with the International Emergency Food Council, created last May to replace the Combined Food Board. FAO will consult UNRRA about activities which might be taken over by FAO when UNRRA goes out of existence next January.

Some of the FAO problems:

Surpluses -- Not in terms of human needs, but in terms of people's ability to pay for the things they want. FAO proposes to work with government and international agencies in enlarging effective demand as a basis for expanding production.

Nutrition -- Millions of people, many in "advanced" countries, do not get proper diets. FAO will help nations find ways so that every person may get enough of the right foods.

Production -- "More-advanced" countries must maintain high production. The "less-advanced" countries must increase production and their economy as a whole, in order to provide the necessary buying power to move food into consumption at fair prices to farmers.

Marketing -- In the "more-advanced" countries, the problem is to improve and reduce the cost of the marketing system. In "less-advanced" countries, marketing facilities must be built up.

Statistics -- To assemble information on production, marketing and consumption of food commodities.

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GENERAL MACARTHUR APPEALS TO AMERICAN YOUTH

General Douglas MacArthur has wired the President's Famine Emergency Committee emphasizing the role of youth in food relief efforts, and calling for continued large-scale food production and conservation to fight famine.

"Famine and its threats, inevitably a curse of war's wake, today grip large sections of the earth's inhabitants," MacArthur said. He also said that the problem of famine "as with so many problems of life...encompasses the youth of America." The communication appealed to them to "dedicate themselves and all that is within them to the noble task of helping, by all available means, to provide the food that youth of other lands may not perish."

Coupled with the release of MacArthur's message was an outline of the program established by the Youth Food Conference at the White House in July. The Youth Conference offered the following program:

1. Combat inertia through a nationwide educational program.
2. Give major emphasis to famine relief as long as it may be necessary.
3. Organize youth food committees in every community.
4. Launch a long-term program of increased food production and conservation.

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1947 WHEAT GOAL IS 71-MILLION ACRES

American farmers have 1947 wheat planting goals only slightly less than the acreage which is producing a record-breaking harvest this year.

Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson has announced that the state wheat goals for 1947 harvest total 71,720,000 acres compared with indicated plantings of 71,896,000 acres for the 1946 harvest.

Kansas has the largest goal, 13,600,000 acres; followed by North Dakota, 10,000,000 acres; Oklahoma, 6,330,000 acres; Texas, 6,000,000 acres; and Nebraska, 4,200,000 acres.

The 1947 goal is somewhat larger than would normally be suggested for proper land conservation and utilization but the big acreage is suggested because of the current low level of world wheat stocks.

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UNRRA REPORTS

***Director General LaGuardia in a Rome press conference expressed deep concern over what will happen to UNRRA countries when UNRRA supplies to Europe cease at the end of 1946. The supplies would be continued if the receiving countries paid for them. This would represent a severe hardship for countries having a trade balance deficit.

***Bread grain crops in Czechoslovakia this year are estimated at 80 percent of prewar levels. The food consumption for workers is approaching normal, except for meats and fats which are still short. The average diet is now about 2,100 calories. Livestock numbers have increased from an all-time low, following liberation, to 86 percent of prewar cattle population and 90 percent of prewar horse population. Industrial output is estimated at 50 to 60 percent of prewar.

***The arrival of two shiploads of grain in Poland on July 25 will release grain for seeding land that remained unplanted last spring. The new seed will be sent principally to devastated farms where farmers and repatriates have been subsisting almost entirely on potatoes.

***Greece has received approximately 2,770,000 long tons of relief and rehabilitation supplies from UNRRA. Food made up the major portion sent, 1,240,000 tons. The rest was medical, clothing, footwear and supplies for agricultural and industrial rehabilitation.

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BRITISH TO END BREAD RATIONING

Bread rationing in Britain will end shortly, according to an announcement August 12 by J. P. Mallalieu, Secretary to Food Minister John Strachey.

Rationing of bread, begun on July 21, assured a fair distribution of the supply for all during the period of possible shortage. The Government is considering keeping cake rationed because bread rationing "has brought cake within the powers of the ordinary people" and "we want the poor people to have a fair share," he added.

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INDIA SEEKS ARGENTINE FOOD

Diwan Chaman Lal, head of the Indian Food Mission to Argentina and member of the Central Legislative Assembly of India, is en route to Argentina where he will attempt to arrange shipment for the 304,000 tons of corn bought by India last June.

Export licenses have been obtained for only 60,000 tons, he reported, and only half that amount has been shipped. Lal said he was eager to buy as much grain there as possible, using either money or goods for exchange.

The slightest breakdown in the machinery for procurement and rationing of food in India will result in millions of deaths, he added.

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IMPORT CONTROLS TAKEN OFF 27 COMMODITIES

The Department of Agriculture has ended import controls on 27 commodities. Poultry, poultry products, dried fruits, canned crab-meat, animal tankage, and fish meal are the items chiefly affected.

The Department explained that supplies are such that removal of import controls will not interfere with equitable world distribution.

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National Youth Groups

State and Assistant State 4-H Club leaders will receive a kit of material --- "Youth - United to Fight Famine" --- within a few days suggesting ways to gain support for the 17 youth-serving agencies working to fight hunger around the world.

Plans have been made to set up meetings in each county similar to the one held in Washington. The President's Famine Emergency Committee has written club leaders stressing the continued need of fighting famine and outlining five programs in which they are asked to participate:

1. Food Preservation - More home canning in order to release commercial packs. Use canning centers.
2. Victory Gardens - Planting of late crops for home use and canning. Recognition of work is provided by the Gen. Douglas MacArthur Medal given by the National Garden Institute to 4-H members.
3. Fat Salvage - Continued need for fat salvage to counteract dwindling supplies of fats and oils. Possibility of soap shortage.
4. Eliminate Food Waste - Cut down on food wasted at home and in public eating places. Utilize food grains other than wheat.
5. Harvest Festivals - A climax to a season of gardening and canning.

The FEC reports that a check of \$1,382 has been received from 1,700,000 4-H club members to be used for purchasing food for hungry people in some European country. This is the second donation; the first check was for \$3,800.

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